

## 4.3 CULTURAL RESOURCES

This section addresses potential direct and indirect impacts to archaeological resources and incorporates information from the Cultural Resources Study prepared by ASM Affiliates (2010). The Cultural Resources Study was prepared in accordance with the City's Cultural Resource Guidelines (1990) and is provided in Appendix I of this EIR.

### 4.3.1 Environmental Setting

#### **Pre-historic Setting**

The prehistory of San Diego County is divided into three general temporal periods: Paleoindian, Archaic and Late Prehistoric. The Paleoindian Period, dating from 11,500 to 8,500/7,500 years before present (BP), is typified by a collection of artifacts called the San Dieguito complex. The San Dieguito complex is represented almost entirely by flaked stone tools, such as patinated scrapers, scraper planes, knives, and large spear points; rare crescentic stones; and occasional manos and metates. San Dieguito sites are located on terraces and ridge tops, lack subsurface material and middens, and are interpreted to represent a band-level, generalized hunter-gatherer society that occupied the inland coastal areas of San Diego during a climatic period of somewhat cooler and moister conditions than at present. The minimal presence of a seed grinding technology was thought to distinguish the San Dieguito complex from later Archaic Period people.

The Archaic Period began at least 8,500 years ago, and possibly as early as 9,000 BP. The Archaic life ways appear to differ from those of the earlier San Dieguito peoples in two ways: gathering activities predominated, with an emphasis upon shellfish and seed collecting; and Archaic people employed primarily portable grinding slabs for plant food processing, and possibly for processing other types of foods. Archaic Period occupation was heaviest along the coast and major drainage systems extending inland. Coastal Archaic sites are characterized by shell middens, flaked cobble tools, basin metates, manos, discoidals, and flexed burials, belonging to the La Jolla complex (ASM Affiliates 2010).

In northern San Diego County, a number of Archaic Period sites exhibit a collection of artifacts that differ from the coastal La Jolla material. Known as the Pauma complex, these sites are typically located on small saddles and hills overlooking stream drainages, and are characterized by surface artifact scatters of basin and slab metates, manos, some scraper planes, a small number of Pinto and Elko series spear points, waste material from the manufacture of stone

tools, and, rarely, discoidals. It is possible that the Pauma complex is an inland or seasonal counterpart of the coastal La Jolla complex. Due to the apparent overlap between San Dieguito and La Jolla sites, there is also speculation that differences between the artifacts of the San Dieguito, La Jolla, and Pauma complexes simply reflect different activities of the same culture.

Between 1300 and 800 BP, groups of people from the Colorado River region began migrating into southern California, although early Late Prehistoric Period sites dating to this period are difficult to identify. It is generally accepted that these eastern groups were the ancestors of the ethnohistoric Kumeyaay of southern California. At the time of contact, however, the northern portion of San Diego County was occupied by the Shoshonean-speaking Luiseño, who migrated from the Great Basin deserts. In general, the Late Prehistoric Period is characterized by the appearance of small pressure-flaked arrow points, bedrock grinding surfaces associated with an emphasis on plant food collection and processing (especially acorns), the replacement of flexed inhumations with cremations, and pictographs, belonging to the San Luis Rey complex. Sometime subsequent to the initial appearance of the Luiseño, pottery production began (ASM Affiliates 2010).

Luiseño culture and society remained stable until the founding of the Mission of San Juan Capistrano in 1776 and Mission San Luis Rey de Francia in 1798, and subsequent displacement by Hispanic populations. The introduction of European diseases, along with the effects of “missionization” greatly reduced the native population of southern California. By 1831, Mission San Luis Rey de Francia claimed 3,000 Indian neophytes, more than any other mission in California. After 1820, California was under Mexican rule, and secularization of the missions became official in 1834.

## **Records Search**

A record search was performed for the project and a one-mile radius surrounding the SP area by the South Coastal Information Center (SCIC) at San Diego State University in January 2010. A total of 33 archaeological sites and 9 historic addresses were identified by the records search, none of which are located within the SP area. Of the archaeological sites, 31 are prehistoric sites, including lithic and shell scatters, and habitation sites; the other two archaeological sites are historic sites, including one historic cemetery and an historic refuse dump. The closest prehistoric site to the SP area is approximately 400 feet north of the northeast SP area corner, and the closest historic site is approximately one-half-mile northeast of the SP area (ASM Affiliates 2010).

Several cultural resource studies are known to have been completed within a one-mile radius of the SP area, but only two of those surveys, both of which were linear, overlap with the SP area. The results of the previous studies within the SP area were negative.

### **Native American Consultation**

Consultation with the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) was initiated in January 2010 and letters were sent to nine Native American individuals soliciting their input on the project. Subsequently, based on the NOP response letter from NAHC, letters were sent out to eight additional individuals in February 2010. Only one response from the Native Americans that were contacted was received. The Pala Band of Mission Indians had no known concerns regarding traditional tribal properties; however, due to the proximity of archaeological sites to the project area, they requested that a Native American monitor be considered during project construction (ASM Affiliates 2010).

### **Site Survey**

Although most of the current SDP proposal would take place in the eastern and southeastern portions of the SP area, a pedestrian survey of the entire SP area was completed on January 25, 2010 (ASM Affiliates 2010). The survey focused on inspecting patches of exposed soil within the SP area. No cultural material was found in any part of the project area. The project site, located on reclaimed marshland, was completely developed in the late 1960s; compacted fill soils were placed across the majority of the property during the original site grading to achieve the current grades, with the exception of an area in the southwestern portion of the SP area that does not appear to have been filled with compacted soils.

#### **4.3.2 Thresholds for Determining Significance**

Appendix G of the State CEQA Guidelines is used to provide direction for determination of a significant cultural resource impact from the proposed project. For the purposes of this EIR, a significant impact would occur if the proposed project would:

- Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource as defined in § 15064.5;
- Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an archaeological resource pursuant to § 15064.5; or
- Disturb any human remains, including those interred outside of formal cemeteries.

### **4.3.3 Environmental Impact**

Cultural resources are typically impacted when earthwork activities such as excavation and grading cut into subsurface areas within which cultural material is buried. These impacts are in the form of destruction of cultural materials or physical disturbance of human remains. Since cultural material was left behind by prehistoric and historic peoples, it is considered nonrenewable. Such impacts are significant, and under State CEQA Guidelines, require mitigation.

No cultural material (historic or archaeological) was found in any part of the project site during the survey. As noted above, the majority of the property was filled with compacted soils during the original site grading, with the exception of an area in the southwestern portion of the SP area that does not appear to have been filled. While it is unlikely that any cultural material or human remains would be discovered anywhere on site, buried cultural deposits could be found during construction and monitoring is recommended. The southwest corner of the SP area has slightly higher potential for buried cultural deposits relative to the remainder of the project area given the presence of semi-intact native slopes and exposed soils bordering the southern margin of the SP area; however, construction would not occur in this area under the current SDP proposal. Furthermore, due to extensive past disturbance there is low potential for human remains to be encountered during the proposed ground-disturbing activities in the project area. Based on the foregoing, there is a low probability of finding resources within the SDP disturbance area during construction and the project is not anticipated to result in impacts to cultural resources. Nonetheless, there is the potential for accidental disturbance of buried cultural resources during excavation or groundbreaking activity. Impacts to such resources, should they occur, would be significant.

### **4.3.4 Mitigation Measures**

Per the discussion above, implementation of the proposed project would result in potentially significant impacts to cultural resources related to short-term construction activities, even taking into consideration the low likelihood of cultural material being present at the site. The associated mitigation measures are outlined below, based on applicable regulatory requirements of the State CEQA Guidelines (Section 15064.5), California Health and Safety Code (Section 7050.5), and City Cultural Resource Guidelines.

*C-1* For the current SDP proposal and any future SDPs involving grading, a Native American monitor shall be on site during initial ground disturbance and grading operations in the event that unknown archaeological resources are encountered during construction.

- C-2 If archaeological resources are discovered during project construction, all work in the area of the find shall cease, and a qualified archaeologist shall be retained by the City to investigate the find, and to make recommendations on its disposition. The archaeologist shall consult with a representative from the Pala Band of Mission Indians regarding the significance of the discovery. The City shall donate the resource to the appropriate interested party and/or museum for recordation and/or curation.
- C-3 If human remains are discovered during project construction, all work shall cease and the San Diego County Coroner's Office shall be contacted pursuant to procedures set forth in Section 7050.5 of the California Health and Safety Code. The City shall follow the recommendations of the San Diego County Coroner's Office and document the subsequent management of the remains in the project file.
- C-4 If human remains are discovered and the San Diego County Coroner determines the remains to be Native American, the Native American Heritage Commission shall be contacted and shall identify the "most likely descendant." Their treatment shall comply with procedures consistent with Public Resources Code Section 5097.98 *et al.*

#### **4.3.5 Level of Significance after Mitigation**

Implementation of Mitigation Measures C-1 through C-4 would reduce the potential impact associated with cultural resources to a level less than significant.

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